

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 6519

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING

REF: A. USNATO 6486

B. STATE 256513

C. USNATO 6404

D. STATE 244206

1. IN INFORMAL MEETINGS ON NOV 22, DRC REPS OF US, UK, FRG, ITALY, NORWAY AND NETHERLANDS MET WITH ASYG HUMPHREYS TO FOLLOW-UP ON PERMREPS DISCUSSION OF DPC MINISTERIAL AGENDA (REF A). LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS CENTERED ON TIMING OF NPG/NDAC MEETING, AND ON LOCATION AND JUXTA-POSITION OF RESTRICTED SESSION AND ITEM ON MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE. US REP (CLINARD) RESERVED POSITION ON NPG/NDAC QUESTION, NOTING HE WAS STILL WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS, BUT INSISTED THAT RESTRICTED SESSION SHOULD PRECEDE ITEM ON MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE, SINCE FORMER COULD SET CONFIDENTIAL

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TONE FOR DISCUSSION UNDER LATTER. SEVERAL OTHER REPS (INCLUDING UK, NETHERLANDS AND IS) WERE CONCERNED THAT MINISTERS MIGHT SAY ALL THEY HAD TO SAY ON KEY MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE ITEM WHIL IN RESTRICTED SESSION (WHICH IS NOT FORMALLY RECORDED), THUS DEPRIVING STAFFS

OF IMPORTANT INDICATIONS AS TO HOW TO PROCEED WITH DRAFTING NEW MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE FOR APPROVAL AT SPRING DPC MEETING.

2. NETHERLANDS REP (CARSTEN) MADE STRONG PITCH ON INSTRUCTIONS FOR HOLDING NPG MEETING ON MORNING OF FIRST DAY, FOLLOWED BY BRIEF NDAC (TO SATISFY NATIONS NOT CURRENTLY ON NPG AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL AND TO "SAVE PORTUGUESE FACE"). HE SAID HE THOUGHT CANADA ALSO WANTED AN NDAC. FRG AND UK ALSO FAVORED BEGINNING MINISTERIAL SESSIONS WITH NPG ON MORNING OF DEC 10, BUT BOTH OPPOSED HOLDING AN NDAC, ON GROUNDS IT WAS NOT CONSTITUTIONALLY NECESSARY, AND WOULD SIMPLY WASTE TIME. FRG REP (GEN SCHUNEMANN) ADDED THAT, WHILE THEY PREFERRED TO BEGIN WITH NPG, THEY WOULD OF COURSE DEFER TO SECRETARY SCHLESINGER ON TIMING OF THAT MEETING. REGARDING POSSIBILITY OF MITIGATING PORTUGUESE EMBARRASSMENT AT BEING EXCLUDED FROM NPG BY HOLDING AN NDAC AT WHICH THEY WERE PRESENT, SEVERAL REPS POINTED TO FACT THAT PORTUGUESE HAD NOW PUBLICLY SAID THEY WERE NOT INTERESTED IN NPG WORK, AND FELT THAT PORTUGUESE MUST LOOK OUT FOR THEMSELVES IN THIS MATTER. US REP NOTED THAT WE DO NOT YET KNOW WHETHER PORTUGUESE INTEND TO CONTINUE TO SIT ON NDAC FOR TIME BEING.

3. ASYG HUMPHREYS MENTIONED THAT SINCE SEVERAL MODS (INCLUDING NETHERLANDS, CANADA, AND NORWAY) APPARENTLY INTEND TO STAY ON FOR A LEAST FIRST DAY OF NAC, ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF HOLDING NPG ON AFTERNOON OF SECOND DAY SO AS TO ALLOW NON-PARTICIPATING MINISTERS TO DEPART LOSES SOME OF ITS FORCE.

4. AT CONCLUSION OF DISCUSSIONS, HUMPHREYS SAID HE INTENDED TO SUGGEST TO SYG LUNS THAT HE ISSUE A PO ON NOVEMBER 25 ASKING PERMREPS TO MEET AGAIN TO DISCUSS DPC AGENDA ON NOVEMBER 26. HUMPHREYS WILL PROPOSE THAT LUNS INCLUDE TWO ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES TO STRUCTURING AGENDA, INCLUDING FIRST AS FOLLOWS:

TUESDAY, 10TH DECEMBER, 9:30 A.M.

I. STATEMENT BY CHAIRMAN OF EUROGROUP
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II. STATEMENT BY CHAIRMAN OF MILITARY COMMITTEE

III. NATO FORCE PLANNING

IV. MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE

V. STATUS REPORTS

A. SPECIALIZATION

B. STANDARDIZATION

C. FLEXIBILITY

VI. INFRASTRUCTURE

- A.
- B.

VII. M.B.F.R.

WEDNESDAY, 11TH DECEMBER, 9:00A.M.

VIII. SECRETARY GENERAL'S SUMMARY APPRIASAL

(RESTRICTED SESSION)

IX. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

X. COMMUNIQUE

WEDNEDAY, 11TH DECEMBER, 3:00 P.M.

N.P.G.

SECOND APPROACH WOULD BEGIN WITH NPG, MENTION NDAC IN BRACKETS, HAVE DPC BEGIN AT 1500 IN AFTERNOON OF FIRST DAY WITH ITEMS I, II, AND III, ABOVE, FOLLOWED BY STATUS REPORTS IF TIME PERMITS. SECOND DAY WOULD BEGIN WITH RESTRICTED SESSION, FOLLOW WITH MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE, AND FINISH UP WITH STATUS REPORTS, IF CONFIDENTIAL

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NOT TAKEN CARE OF ON PREVIOUS DAY, AND INFRASTRUCTURE AND MBFR.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE BY NOV 25 ON ABOVE ALTERNATIVES, AND PARTICULARLY ON TIMING OF NPG MEETING AND QUESTION OF WHETHER AN NDAC IS DESIRABLE IN THIS INSTANCE.
MCAULIFFE

CONFIDENTIAL

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